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Place: Evanston, Illinois
Interview with: Mrs. E. Edgerton Hart (Della Bosworth Hart)
Interviewed by: Glenna Johnson
Language Used: English

Observations: This interview was conducted in Mrs. Hart's home. The purpose of the interview was to ascertain Mrs. Hart's perceptions of the Evanston society she moved in; to find out how she and others like her lived; and to develop a picture of master-servant relations and their attitudes toward each other.

1. Q. You were born in Chicago in 1907?

A. That's right.

2. Q. And when did you move to Evanston?

A. I think I came out here when I was six or seven months old. I had a sister who was born here and she must have been born in 1909.

3. Q. Do you know why your family moved to Evanston?

A. I think, I think the reason was because my father's cousins were living here, Charles Dawes, Rufus Dawes, and I believe Henry M. Dawes, and they had all originally come from Marietta, Ohio. They lived around here. You know where the historical society is. I think that's probably the reason.

4. Q. Then they moved to be close to family?

A. I think so.

5. Q. Where did you live then, this house?

A. Right here.

6. Q. Where did you go to school?

A. Well, I went to school, let's see---I think for three years at Miller and then my father and some of his friends decided they wanted a private school here and so they got together with some other friends and they started the Roycemore School for Girls. So I went to Roycemore, probably, from the fourth grade on.

7. Q. So your father was one of the founders of Roycemore?

A. Well, he was one of the instigators, let's put it that way. He wanted a private school and many of his friends felt the same way. How they got it started, I really don't know. But a, my sister and I we went there for many years. We didn't graduate because we were sent away to school the last two years of our high school years. We were sent to Mt. Vernon Seminary in Washington where we didn't graduate because it was a junior college so you just had the year or two away.

8. Q. Do you know why your father felt that Evanston needed a private school?

A. I really don't know, because there were no problems here, ever. I just can't answer that. It was a small suburb as you know. There was a very nice social life for these people, and I suppose that maybe they felt that, that was the thing to do. You know, I don't know really. There was no reason why they couldn't go through Miller. All of us went to Roycemore. Everybody. All around here, even my friends who lived west of Ridge. All the girls---everybody went to Roycemore that I knew. And we practically knew everybody in this town in those days.

9. Q. Do you have any idea how big Evanston was in those days?

A. Well it seems to me, I read something about it, might have been 20,000. I maybe wrong but I think I saw that somewhere.

10. Q. What do you remember the most about your days at Miller School?

A. That's really hard to say because our whole neighborhood went there. That it was fun, really nice. There was a colored section down here which is just a block long between Forest and

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Judson and those colored children went to that school. They would sometimes come back and play with all of us, and it was a neighborhood school so you knew practically everybody in it. I think those were very happy days really. And that colored settlement is still there.

11. Q. And there were no problems in school between the two groups?

A. No. No problems anyway really. Anywhere. I think many times a day---you are all barricaded, with your locks on your doors. You're all locked up. In those days the front door was open and you came in, in the summer, and there wasn't crime on the streets.

12.Q.That's how my home town is, still.

A. It's such a shame, really. And you're alert all the time for something. As I say, in those days there was a happy freedom. We had lots of young people in. Today you have to be careful. We didn't have to be careful.

13. Q. Can you describe a typical day in those days to me?

A. Well, I could describe a typical day. Of course, now in this house, if you're interested in what this house alone was like, there was a maid here and a cook. There was a chauffeur here who lived with us for almost forty years. There was a governess who was foreign, who was with us until we were fifteen. A day, sometime, it might be a Saturday, we might get some of our friends together with Mademoiselle and somewhere, somehow, my Mother would rent for us a pony cart and we would go for a

ride. We would go way up beyond Ridge Avenue and back. Nobody I knew had bicycles. We didn't have bikes, but once in awhile, we would rent a bicycle from the bicycle shop on Chicago Avenue not far from here and the three of us would bicycle and would go into Calvary Cemetery^e and have a picnic by the lagoon there. Or we would take the bikes down to Dawes Park. That wasn't very much because as I say we didn't have bikes of our own. I think that our play was probably very unsophisticated compared to that of today. As young girls we played paper dolls and we all had doll houses. And I had an especially beautiful doll house that had been made by an architect, and all the furniture came from Schwartz's in New York (she chuckles here). It looked like a real house. We played with that a lot. Here again, as I said, life was simpler. People played in their homes. We went back and forth and visited each other, and played.

14. Q. Do you know what your Mother did?

A. Let's see. Let me think about what my Mother did. In those days there was a very active social life. Women had teas. Now I'm just thinking of the people I know.

15. Q. Certainly.

A. They had the red canopies out on their houses for when the ladies would come. Someone would sing, a friend of theirs. They would go to luncheons. They had dinner parties. My mother was very active in the Illinois Children's Home and Infant Welfare and also the Chicago Opera. And I suppose that was charitable work and civic work. How it was done and when it was done I don't remember but as I got older I saw more. And

my father was Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank. He was the first President of the People's Trust and Savings Bank and retired when he was about fifty-five years old. As we grew older and got out of school, he had been retired for many years, I was nineteen and my sister, seventeen, we went on our first European trip which took us away for six months, and then in the summers we had a place over in Michigan on the lake where we went to for many years.

16. Q. Do you remember where your summer home was?

A. It was in St. Joe, Michigan. And then in the winter they used to go to California and we went to school out there, in Pasadena. And then, as we got older, one year in 1926 we went away for six months to Europe and the following winter we went to California and the following winter we went back to Europe for six months and then we went out to California again. Then in 1929 and '30 we went around the world and were gone for six months. By that time I was almost 23 and I married an Englishman and went to London to live. And two years later my sister came to Europe, married an Englishman and came to London to live and she is still there.

17. Q. How long did you stay in London and why did you return to the United States?

A. I was in London, I guess, until the end of 1939. And my sister's been there since 1932.

18. Q. If you don't mind my asking, why did you come back?

A. I came back because of the circumstances with this a war, coming up about then. So I came back and, a, my first husband

was drowned during the war. And my sister came over during the war and her husband's entire family was wiped out one night during the blitz. Her father-in-law was a world famous economist and a great friend of General Dawes'. He and his wife, three servants, and Hilda's son were wiped out in the blitz. It was a house just like this on three acres and there was nothing left. And my brother-in-law came to the house and there was nothing there. It was all gone. Then he inherited the title Lord Stamp. He is the third Lord Stamp. So, as I say she lives over there.

19. Q. It must have been terrible.

A. It was. Of course she was over here during the war.

20. Q. So you sort of missed the Depression in Evanston?

A. Well, I was in England then.

21. Q. Were you very active in the Country Club?

A. Well, you mean the Evanston Country Club? I couldn't say that I was actually all that active in it myself, but I remember my Mother and Father and those people going to plays there. My Mother and a friend of theirs won several times the waltzing contests. I remember going to dances there with young people from over here. I remember playing tennis there and I guess we played tennis there up until the war when it folded. But I was gone you see, all of the thirties. I'd say, and then we travelled so much during the twenties, from 1926 on really, that a lot of the life of some people such as Avis Beach---our life was really quite different. You know those people were

really here the whole time, and my father having retired at a younger age, we were really away quite a bit so we really couldn't get into anything. We couldn't give it the time we should, cause you know, you have to be here. You couldn't just say I'm going to do something and then not do it. We worked for the Red Cross during the first war though.

22. Q. Do you remember life in Evanston during the First World War?

A. I do yes.

23. Q. What was Evanston like during that time?

A. I can't remember very well, but I do remember that we had a house in Pasadena during that time, but I can't remember exactly when, but there was a flu epidemic there, then. I can't remember the date. I don't remember when the armistice was signed. I think we were in school. We probably all went into the assembly hall where the principal probably gave a prayer.

24. Q. You mentioned that you had a cook and a chauffeur, and a governess.

A. And a maid.

25. Q. Was your help black?

A. Yes. The chauffeur was with us for over 40 years. Except the governess. She was from Luxemburg. We've always had black help here and always got along very beautifully with them. And my Mother was very kind to them. And the chauffeur went really many places with her, including England, one year when she went over and took her car. He was really part of the family. Taught us how to swim, taught us how to ride. As I say, they were part of our life.

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26. Q. Did they actually live in?

A. Yes, they all lived in. The cook lived in; the maid lived in.

27. Q. Did they have family's of their own or was your family essentially their family?

A. I don't believe they did. I think, Sam, our chauffeur, maybe he did. He was married. And I don't believe that he lived in until later. I say later---I mean maybe twenty-five or thirty years later. But the cook lived in and the maid. And the cook whom we also had for almost forty years, did have a house of her own in Evanston across from Evanston High School. On her days off she went home. I think every other Sunday she went home too, but I believe she came back in the evening.

28. Q. What days did the help have off?

A. On Thursday and every other Sunday after they had served Sunday dinner. But someone would always be here. Or maybe if they did go out, they had Sunday dinner first. On Thursdays they would go off after breakfast. How they did that I really don't know because as I remember, there was always somebody here.

29. Q. Perhaps they staggered their days off?

A. Could be.

30.Q.I had a question but I think I lost it, It will come to me
as we go on. Can you tell me about Roycemore?

A. Well, let's see about Roycemore. I guess there were about 127 to 130 students and they were all girls except for about six boys. And we all wore uniforms. And the mistress was a very fine woman and very strict. They had stiff discipline there. We signed a pledge that we would not go to a place called

DuBreills, or to Cooley's Cupboard during the week for ice cream, would not go to the moview until Friday afternoon. And you could not wear rolled stockings and when you signed that pledge you abided by that pledge.

31. Q. Were DuBreills and Cooley's forbidden only on the week days or were they forbidden period?

A. All during school. On Monday till Friday afternoon--- school days. You signed a pledge saying you wouldn't do it and you did not do it.

32. Q. Do you think that this was generally observed?

A. Oh my goodness yes! And of course there was hockey and every Saturday you could join an art class and take art. You were there all day. Had lunch there. And then you came home around three o'clock.

33. Q. What was wrong with these places like DuBreills?

A. I don't think there was anything wrong with them. It was just that after school they expected you to go home and study.

34. Q. So it was an academic rather than a social restriction?

A. I think it was because there was nothing wrong with them. They were very well known places around, but I think that they thought that on school days you should go home and---study.

35. Q. What did you do after school?

A. Now I just can't remember that.

36. Q. Did you go to friends' houses?

A. I suppose we might have. I know my sister used to study at night until all hours of the night. I was not a very good student so I didn't study. I imagine we called our friends. All around us we had friends, you see, who went to Boycemore.

37. Q. I got my question back. Would you mind telling me the names of your servants?

A. One was Lilly Lynn, and there were several maids through the years, you know, so I really can't remember.

38. Q. Was Lilly Lynn the cook?

A. Yes. And Sam Miller was the chauffeur. And everybody in Evanston knew him and called him by our last name, Sam Bosworth. And he was a very well known character about Evanston.

He didn't drink; he didn't smoke; he was very happy and as I say he was a part of old Evanston. And when he died he was given a lovely funeral by my Mother and they put, I believe in the Evanston Review, the name Sam Bosworth. My Mother's friends, most of them, came to the funeral. As I say he was a really well known character around Evanston.

39. Q. Did he leave any family?

A. I think he left a wife. And I suppose that earlier in our life here, there was other help but that takes me so far back, I can't remember. I remember that when my sister was a very little girl, about two years old, we did have a German governess here and that my sister spoke German before she spoke English. I think that there were white help here. A white cook and a white maid. And I think they came from General Dawes' house and then eventually---no! They were here first and then they eventually went to General Dawes' house. And they were there with General and Mrs. Dawes until they died. Jenny was one of their maids. I can't think of the other. They were white.

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40. Q. I noticed your voice changed when you referred to Lilly Lynn. Was she a major character in your life?

A. Yes. Well, she ran the kitchen and nobody went into the kitchen and it seems to me from what I can remember that she was in that kitchen all the time. It was a big household and particularly during the war, when my sister was here too, with both of our children, her son, my daughter, so there were many meals to get basically, three times a day.

41. Q. Did you dine formally in the evening?

A. Every night. And lunch when we were all here, and breakfast. I remember that my Mother for many years had her tray in her room because she wasn't too well. She was served a 7:30. I remember, that nobody could fix her tray, not the maid, not any of us because only Lilly knew how to do it. So we all had breakfast in here at 8:00. My father died in 1937 so he was not here with us during those years. So we had breakfast at 8:00 and my sister's son and my daughter went to Roycemore. And when he was taken out of Roycemore, after several years there, he was sent to a boy's school in Canada. My daughter graduated from Roycemore.

42. Q. You mentioned that you were related to the Dawes. Was that through you or through your husband?

A. That was through my father.

43. Q. Would you mind helping me trace this back because one thing I'm supposed to try and establish is family genealogy?

A. This relationship is so complicated that you are going to have to work it out yourself. Let's see if I can get this straight now. General Dawes' grandmother and my Father's mother

were sisters. General Dawes' mother, as you know married a Dawes. My father's sister married General Dawes' mother's brother.

44. Q. That last one I missed.

A. Let's see. Daddy's sister, that would be Frances Bosworth, married General Dawes' mother's husband's brother: General Iphriam Grant Culter Dawes. Now is that complicated? He was a famous general during the Civil War. So those cousins, Mary Dawes and Frances Bosworth were not only first cousins but were also sisters-in-law. ~~xxxxxxx~~ She did not have any children, but her sister-in-law as you know had General Dawes, Charles G. Dawes, Rufus Dawes, Beman Dawes, Henry Dawes, and two daughters one by the name of Mary Beach, and one by the name of Bessie Hoyt. Mrs. Beach's husband (Avis Beach) was Rufus Beach and so he is my second cousin. And my father's father is Stabler (?) Bosworth who is today recognized as one of the foremost of the American primitives. And his paintings are all over now, in the United States, including this museum in Marietta, Ohio that has become famous. And I will show you some of his pictures. It was a very interesting group of people from Marietta, and they were closely related and very great friends, my father and all these men. (Having to change the sides of the tape stimulated the following conversation).

Mrs. H. That's very complicated isn't it?

Mrs. J. When you're in a hurry it is. I have a little more sympathy for Rosemary Woods after spending a quarter working with tapes. (Laughter) Halfway through one interview I realized I had forgotten to plug in the microphone. I was so glad I had taken notes. This is why I always take notes, in case the tape recorder does not work.

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Mrs. H: That's smart.

Mrs. J: There have been times when I thought the machine had switched off and I had lost part of a conversation and it turned up later on a tape. Machines are a mystery to me anyway.

Mrs. H: That's right.

Mrs. J: It works though. And then trying to transcribe the tapes, I have more respect for the word "inaudible." (Laughter)

Mrs. H: I would think it is very difficult. Voices change on tapes.

Mrs. J: Really! You speak the most articulately of anyone I've interviewed.

Mrs. H: Me?

Mrs. J: Yes.

Mrs. H. Thank you very much.

Mrs. J: I was just sitting here thinking this is going to be such a pleasure. You speak in very complete sentences compared to others I've interviewed. You don't start over three or four times. That makes my job so much easier. Many people lose track of a thought mid-sentence and sometimes I never do get an answer to my question. You have been very easy to follow in your responses.

Mrs. H: Thank you very much. You put me very much at ease. I find your project very interesting. You'd be amazed at the number of people who come to take pictures of this house and never ask a question about the people who have occupied it. There is a woman who conducts lectures about interesting places in Evanston. This house is in her pictures. It's called Prairie Victorian. It's a very interesting house. It had interesting people in it too. My family knew many many people. Were very outgoing. All

kinds of people were here, Vice Presidents, Indian Princes, Movie Stars. In fact, my uncle, Hobart Bosworth, was a famous movie star long before your time. And he used to come out here when he was playing in Chicago and all the children in the neighborhood would look in the window of the dining room to see the famous actor. But as you know, times have changed and I think that the lack of the help you need for house like this has limited the kind of entertaining you can do. You can't do what you could do then.

45. Q. Do you no longer have any help?

A. Well, I have a cleaning woman who comes once a week and I had a cook who was with me for ten years and left me about five or six years ago. And she does come in if I want to entertain and she brings a friend of hers. She is a very great friend. She calls me about once a week to wish me well. She has a very fine job which she had while she worked for me. She used to come over in the evening after work to help me out. But we just can't entertain like that, the way we once did, anymore.

46. Q. Would you care to elaborate anymore on your entertaining? Who you entertained, when, and perhaps why?

A. Well let's see. It's difficult to pin that down, because we travelled a great deal and met many very fine people. A great many people would come through Chicago, look the family up and come out here to dine. We had one very interesting person whom we met, I believe in Bombay. That would be in 1930. He had
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one of the most famous jewel collections in the world. He took us into his private quarters and let us try on his superb emeralds, rubies, diamonds. Emir Charrel (?) was his name. And he was here during the World's Fair I believe. I'm not quite sure when that was. 1933, you think?

47. Q. I'm not sure.

A. But he did come out here for dinner and he brought his servants with him. And did you know, they have the caste system over there so his meal was prepared by his own servant. Vice President Marshall was here when Woodrow Wilson was President. Beatrice Lilly was here, Charley Winteger(?). A great friend of my Mother's was Margaret Illington (?), who was one of the famous actresses of that day and she acted with John Drew. They came here when they were playing in Chicago. We were introduced to the theater very early in our lives. And things like that. I tell, now, I never go to the theater. I'm scared to go downtown at night. And as we got older, say sixteen or eighteen, we used to go into town to lunch and theater on Saturdays and then earlier than that when we went to town, why of course, the governess went with us. We didn't go alone. It took a long time to go into the City. Because when we were very young, going into Chicago, you went all the way along the Lake, that was straight down Sheridan Road. You didn't have Lake Shore Drive, so you could see the Lake all the way down. We had three cars. One was a electric. And in earlier days I remember a limousine which we had, and in it in the back seat where we sat was a glass, like a little vase, on the side of one of the windows, and there was always a fresh flower in it. I guess you could

see that in the Great Gatsby or something like that. (laughs)
And of course at Marshall Fields there was a door man who knew people like my Mother and their Chauffeurs and he would always call them when we were ready to come out. I don't know how they knew. It was a different type of life, There was more elegance of course. People were always dressed. You always wore gloves. You always wore a hat. You went to Church every Sunday or Sunday School, and as I said, after Church you always sat down to a big Sunday Dinner as they used to call it. People called. This room right here is the reception room as I call it, and as a child, I remember people calling on my Mother and sitting in this room. This room was my father's office, he used to call it. We all took piano lessons and we all played the piano.

48. Q. Were these private lessons?

A. They were private lessons. Both of us took them. Both of us played the piano.

49. Q. Were you girls scouts or campfire girls?

A. No. Because we went away every summer, all summer, right after school was out. We went over to St. Joe, Michigan. We were there until after Labor Day. The Dawes, went with us, the Byrds went with us, and we had a pony over there. There were lots of friends there, some of them from Evanston.

50. Q. Was your father retired at this time or was he still working?

A. He retired when we were quite young I believe. Cause I just vaguely remember going into the town and the policeman at the corner of Michigan Avenue where the library is, used to stop cars and take us across the street to see our Daddy.

Just very vaguely. And I remember at one time, after that when he was Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, I remember him discussin it with my Mother, They wanted him to go to Washington for ten years to be head of the whole system, And I remember vaguely that it was talked over for many ~~years~~ many days and he decided he would rather retire and just be Vice President, He didn't want to bring up his girls in Washington, I don't know how old we were then. So I just really can't remember him working.

51. Q. What did he do with his time when he wasn't working?

A. He had a wonderful time. He got the State Bank in Evanston started, He was a director there, Then he became director of the First National Bank in Evanston, and of course he knew all the officers, He went to their weekly meetings and they all had lunch together every day, Then he would go to the Men's Club on Chicago Avenue to play cars, which is an apartment building now, Right across from the Christian Science Church, It was called the Evanston Club, The men who retired or who liked to play cards, played Auction, He led a very full life, He was a scientist as a hobby, He was a great friend of a Dr. Duleigh (?) of Northwestern at that time, who was head of Astronomy, He used to go see him and go to the observatory there, He was also interested in, whad do you call it, higher mathematics? He had a great many correspondents---interesting, different people, on that subject, Very intelligent, I think he graduated from college at 19, law shool at something like 21 or 22, And then got into the railroad business, somehow,

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and became President of the Southern Railroad that went all through Carbondale and Galesburg.

52. Q. That's near my home.

A. Whereabouts?

53. Q. Kewanee, Illinois.

A. Oh that's lovely isn't it. Isn't that beautiful country?

54. Q. Yes, I love it.

A. That is beautiful country. My daughter went to Knox for a year but it was too hard for her. She couldn't put up with it. It's a marvelous college.

55. My sister graduated from Knox.

A. I mean that's really an outstanding college.

56. Q. It really is, a very good school. Very demanding.

A. It's a little school but it has a terrific reputation.

57. Q. What was Northwestern's reputation like when you were growing up?

A. Very fine. Because Evanston is as you know, Northwestern. Northwestern is Evanston. It always had a very fine reputation. And to people like myself, who have always lived in Evanston all these years, are very happy we have this fine University here. It's a wonderful campus.

58. Q. Did you ever feel that there was this town and gown conflict that seems to go on between the town and the University?

A. I'm not quite sure that I know what that means?

59. Q. Well, it seems like, that well at least since I've been at Northwestern, this is my sixth year here since I also did my undergraduate work here, and I'm a second year graduate student now, that there were these periodic conflicts with city hall over things. I think the biggest issue was that Northwestern does not pay taxes to the city.

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A. Now I really don't know anything about that sort of thing. Many people I know, or knew, they're dead now, were very interested in Northwestern, friends of my father were all trustees. And so they were very interested in Northwestern and I never heard of anything that had to do with conflict of any kind, taxes or anything.

60. Q. I was just interested to know if this type of conflict was ongoing or a relatively recent phenomenon.

A. I really don't know.

61. Q. Did you know a Mrs. Easton, a fortune-teller?

A. No.

62. Q. One of my interviewees described a Mrs. Eaton to me, who lived on the West Side and told fortunes. Children used to love to go out there.

A. No, I never. I think Mrs. Beach should be able to help you out, a lot. She's been here and she has a marvelous memory, I think. We'll get to talking some times and she can bring up things I've forgotten all about. And I don't think you see that very often. Because people do move, you know, and move around. My sister will come back here and we will get with our friends, and those friends are friends that she's known and I've known all of our life. And it's really a remarkable thing in this day and age when there is so much moving around. Young people today, you know, go one place, stay two years, and then go somewhere else. I know everybody around me. Some of them are newcomers, but it is not what I would call an intimate neighborhood anyway. But

then my firends, who are my age, never would have been intimate in the beginning. I mean people just didn't barge in on you. I don't know what the young people do today. I think they're more friendly aren't they?

63. Q. Evenso, no one would ever come to my place without calling me first.

A. That's good. They wouldn't do that here either. Maybe they don't do that anyway. Today, the young people here have a real freedom. And I think that if they can cope with it, then it's up to them. I don't think they should be criticized, young people, because you don't know what you would have done if you were that age today. Don't you think?

64. Q. Oh definitely. It's all realtive to the time you live in.

A. That's the way I feel. I think young people are very interesting; they're intelligent and of course if they do have the freedom they have, that's their business.

65. Q. I personally would not take away the freedoms we have today.

A. I think it's wonderful, really. Now my grandson was here the other night for dinner, he's fifteen and a half. We took him to London with us last year before his junio year in high school and my sister, whose children have all gone through private schools, because they all have to go to private school there, you can't go to what we call a public school in this country. A public school in this country is called a county school in England, ~~and those are the children whose parents can't afford~~ to send them to the private school which is called the public school in England. So these children, her sons, have all been to private schools. Anyway, we took this boy with us and she

and she could not believe that a boy of fifteen and a half was such a gentleman, was so poised and mature, because she thought from what she had read, that something out of sight was coming to visit. Anyway, that was marvelous. Friday night he asked if he could come to dinner and bring his girlfriend. Which I thought was marvelous because it's a compliment I think. And he came to dinner and he wanted everything the way I like it, candles, birds-the silver birds, lovely table, I cooked for dinner. I hope it passed. (Laughs). And this young lady of sixteen was the most charming, most poised young lady I ever met in my life. And it's just the opposite of the way I was when I was sixteen and a half. Because we were all, I think, too sheltered. So we probably didn't know how to act when we got out. And here was this young girl who was just lovely. She called up the next day to thank me. I mean I was really amazed. They stopped by here last night with their bicycles and she told me again what a lovely time she had. You know, that's very nice.

66. Q. It certainly is. That's how I was raised to behave.

These young people are wonderful. I haven't met one yet that I couldn't harbor. I'm very impressed and these are young people who aren't even in college yet.

(Mr. Hart enters the room).

67. Q. Mr. Hart, did you grow up in Evanston?

A. oh no. I grew up in New York City. I was born in Marietta, Ohio, though.

Mrs. Hart: His grandfather married my grandmother's sister in Marietta, Ohio. She died childless. If she had had children then my husband and I would have been cousins. (Laughs).

So the Dawes, Hart, Bosworth in Marietta thing is all inter-woven.

68. Q. Do you know what little boys did when they were growing up?

A. Mr. Hart: Did they play on the beaches and swim in the lake, fly kites?

Mrs. Hart: I really don't know. No, I really don't have any idea. I don't think we played with any little boys.

(Mr. Hart laughs and leaves).

69. Q. Were there many cars when you were a child in Evanston?

A. That I can't remember either. I know there were several electrics, electric cars. A great many young people when they reached seventeen and eighteen had cars of their own, I believe. That's probably the same way today, too. Everybody knew all the policemen in Evanston though, and if they got in any difficulty, they managed to see them through it all right. I can remember Davis Street very early in my life where they had wooden sidewalks and steps going up to the different stores. Everybody seemed to know everybody in the shops. Everybody went to a certain man in this neighborhood by the name of Wickman. Everybody went to a grocery store by the name of Shirey. Everybody was very friendly, of course, in greeting people. Hugo, the plumber was doing my family's work as a child, and is still doing our work now. And we have a piano upstairs, that is about 50 years old. A man who came to tune it for many years, is an old Evanstonian named Mr. Antoons. He remembers us as children. I remember we used to crawl under the piano and dump all his tools out. Now his protege is coming to do the tuning. Everybody knew Mr. Antoons. He tuned pianos for the Chicago Symphony and for the concerts that were given in Chicago. And that was the type of life it was. Everybody seemed to know people.

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People were friends. Of course, then it was a smaller town wasn't it.

70. Q. Do you know anything about what the racial situation was? For example, I've been told that Black people could not get service in Marshall Fields.

A. That I wouldn't know. Because in my experience, I never had any problems of any kind with colored people and never heard of any. I remember once, though, when we were over in St. Joe, Michigan, our Chauffeur couldn't go back to Chicago on the count of the race riots on the South Side. Now when that was, I just can't remember. He would have had to drive through the South Side to get home. I remember that. I can't remember any conflicts with colored people. And I believe that this colored section here, particularly the Emerson Street area, those people that own their own homes, there have been very nice people. Of course with dope and things like that around today, there may be some problems there. It doesn't get down around here though, yet.

71. Q. Did you ever know of the Bohemian Club, the Bohemian Room?

A. No, in Evanston?

72. Q. Yes. I'm told that this was a place where Northwestern students went and danced the Toddle.

A. Oh. I never knew of that place. I remember dancing at the Country Club. They had dances, particularly at Christmas time. Eight boys would give a dance, and you'd get formal invitations. Of eight girls would have a dance. Many people would go to different houses for dinner, And in those days, the 1926 - 30 years, young women would entertain at their house for lunch.

Not too many of my friends went to college. They went to a year or two of what we called finishing school. And then we came back to a life, I guess if you want to call it that, a social life. There were luncheons and going into town for luncheon and the theater. We had people in for dinner and if you were going out with men, you went into town for dinner and the theater. There was no such thing as a single's bar. Those young men who had finished with college also had very nice positions in Chicago. That's the type of life women lived. They didn't work. I guess it must have been a lazy life, actually, compared with today. We went out to the clubs, the Country Club. You might play tennis or golf. Might swim out in the pool. Have lunch out there. I was a more,---a life that I don't think exists too much today. There weren't any problems in the home. Home life went smoothly. If we wanted to entertain, or have a dinner party here, why we would have it and I guess my parents would have dinner upstairs on a tray. They didn't interfere with us. This was when we were say 20 or 22. And we could always entertain in the library and play cards. And when they left, we always cleaned up everything. We were raised to do that. We never left anything for anybody to clean up the next day. I remember many Sundays, in those years, when we would come out there, if no one was around we would have milk and crackers or sandwiches or something, but we always cleaned up after ourselves. But there was a different type of social life. I don't think young people have it today. In fact I'm almost certain they don't. Though why, I don't know. I think part of it, again,

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I'm speaking of this world I know, the house ran with help. If you wanted somebody for lunch, the Mother didn't have to worry about it. Today if you want someone for lunch, you yourself have to do it. It was a very easy life I would say and a very spoiling life. Not that I'm criticizing it, because I am very happy to have experienced it. The only thing is that I feel sorry for people today who are my age who are not able to adjust to their life today. I don't think my Mother could have. I can because I happen to have that kind of personality. I mean, I'll roll with the punches but I know many people who at my age find life very difficult. They're unhappy. They're critical. There's no place for you in this society if you're going to be like that. You either adjust or else. And I think that's the difference, if I say, and when I'm speaking, I am speaking only of what I know, the social structure. Because women do more, as you know. They did not do anything in those days. They had laundresses, cooks, maids. If you had a very large party, the chauffeur would act as a houseman as well, and help wait on the table with the maid. Twice a year he would bring somebody along with himself and give this house a thorough house cleaning. He and a friend would take down the screens or put up the storm windows. The windows would be washed two or three times. Everything was done. Now if you want anything that needs to be done, you hope that your husband or your son can do it or you get someone to help you which you very often can't. It was an easier life for the adult, and the young people. There was a great deal of travel. Many of my friends travelled as we did. I mean we

were able to be gone for a long time. Today you can go to Europe and in two weeks see a great deal of it. You don't know it but at least you've been there. I think that's part of this old Evanston that was different. There was leisure, and a very gracious life. Helped of course by the people you had working for you, I think.

73. Q. Were Evanston girls debutantes?

A. Some of them were, not many of them though. We were. And another friend of mine, Mrs. Arthur Long and her sister. You should call on her. We came out together in 1927. and they had a big tea here I remember. And then a dinner down at the Drake Hotel for ourselves, our assistants, and our gentlemen friends. I had a debut tea for my daughter here, because my Mother really wanted me to, though she wasn't living then. She hoped I would do it; wished I would. My daughter didn't want it; I didn't think I should do it, but I thought that if that is whay my Mother would have wanted, I'll do it. So I had a very pleasant tea for her. I don't think many others did. I know that there was one person, here in Evanston, during my childhood, who was presented at the court of St. James to King George and Quenn Mary. My sister and I were both presented to Queen Mary and the Duke of Windsor. We lived in London then, and that was the thing to do. Debuts today, I don't think people have them, because they don't mean anything anymore, really. It meant something in those older days because that was when you sere supposed to be able to go out into adult society. There again, I think it goes back further than myself. I think it goes back to the 1900's and beyond that, when girls really were restricted

in everything they did. And then there was a carry over to it, and they were still making debuts back in 1927 when we made ours but I think we were the only ones in Evanston who did. But my Mother had a very active social life in Chicago as well, so we moved along with the Chicago friends and went to their parties and things like that.

74. Q. How old was a debutante when she came out?

A. About eighteen or nineteen. I don't think there are any girls today who will do it. They don't want to be bothered. Most of the young people get jobs, live in Chicago. They don't have time.

75. Q. Was this seminary you went to, a sort of finishing school?

A. It was a finishing school, Mt. Vernon Seminary. It had two years of college. They didn't call it a Junior College though. Some girls were there for four years. Some girls were there in the last two years of high school, and then some girls would come in for their last year of high school and then have two years of junior college. I believe we went there for our last year of high school.

76. Q. What kind of education did you get there?

A. I can't tell you. I don't know how to explain it. We took Greek, French, History. Dressed every night for dinner. You had twin bedded rooms separated by a full bath. You had to dress every night for dinner, had to wear a white dress of some kind but it had to be a dinner type of dress and white pumps. And those who were very fine in French went into the French dining room. You would be invited in through the year if you spoke fine French. It was what you would call a finishing

school education, whatever that is. Some went to Dobsberry, some went to Mount Vernon, some went to Pine Manor.

77. Q. Was the purpose of this education to prepare you to move in social circles?

A. I think so. It was something to do after you finished four years of high school, though some girls went before finishing high school. I suppose it was to finish your education. I really don't know what they started from; it started I guess as what they said, a finishing school. And these schools were formal. Beautiful grounds---there was tennis. Some girls brought their horses with them. There was riding. As I tell you, we always dressed everynight for dinner. It was a very formal atmosphere. We wore uniforms there too. No make up of course. They were called finishing schools. There's no such thing today.

78. Q. Are any of these schools still operating today?

A. Mount Vernon is. Dobsberry, I'm not sure. Pine Manor is. Fox Croft, I'm not sure if it is. Miss ^ESpinches in New York, I don't know. A friend of mine went through Miss Spinches and a classmate of hers was Mrs. Onassis's Mother. There must have been a real snob appeal in those days. Of course nobody would talk like that now.

79. Q. Was there a snobbery of sorts in Evanston? Certain people with whom it was better to be associated than others?

A. Well, I guess you could say that. It's^a dreadful thing to say. I know what you mean. I say it's a dreadful thing to say because we were not brought up to be snobs. But the group that my family associated with, I suppose you would call them the leading society people of this town, area. And when one or two

People moved into this city, Mr. Gold was one of them, who was head of Vapor Car Heating, and a multi-millionaire, bought this magnificent home on the lake. Nobody had anything to do with him because his wife had been an actress. It's shocking to think about it today. Although my sister was a great friend of the daughter and my Mother knew them and was very nice to them and they became friends, but they were not treated nicely by some of the Evanston people. I guess there was a snobbery--- but then again, I remember someone who lived right across the street here in a small house and her father was a travelling salesman. You know there has always been stories about them. But they were a terribly attractive couple and they had this beautiful daughter who was one of my dearest friends and everybody was kind to them. So what's the snob situation then, I know it was there. I can't quite put my finger on it. I suppose anyone who had a decent reputation would be accepted. I don't know about the financial part, because these people were very, in fact, they had a yacht, that we used to get on right down there. There was a pier. And they had a great big yacht with a crew on it and we'd get on it as kids with our parents and go on their yacht. And yet they were not accepted in Evanston Society. And today I don't know what Society is except that you make it yourself---what you make out of your own life. Cause I don't think money has anything to do with it. I think if you're decent, and educated, and nice---it has nothing to do with money. Now whether they thought that way in those days, I don't know. Because everybody seemed to be on a certain financial level, that all of us were on. We never heard about it. You know what I mean, it was never discussed.

80. Q. Were you aware of any anti-semitism?

A. No, because we didn't know any. We didn't know any. Later on in life---when I say later on, I mean 20-21 years old, we started buying hats from a man named Greenfield who owned the shop named Bes-Ben that was in the Blackstone Hotel, now its across from the Drake and he was one of the most popular men, world travelled, knows everybody under the sun in Europe and became very great friend of all of ours. We went to his home and he came to ours and my Mother just adored him. He is very famous. Everybody knows Bes-Ben's. Everybody, in Chicago who is anybody. He has an apartment that's been written up in the Tribune, they called it Ben's Museum, it's so filled with oriental art. My Mother wanted to take him out to Glenview Club, This was many years ago. She thought he might like it and some of his friends, so she called them up and asked if this would be permissable and they said no. Now that was years ago. Today I think they have one or two Jewish members. I was never brought up with that attitude. Or trained with those ideas. Some of my good friends in London were Jews. We were not brought up, and there again, I'm just speaking for my own family, in anyway prejudiced against anybody. And that was the first time I ever heard that happen, where you couldn't take a Jewish person out somewhere.

81. Q. Do you think that if you had brought a black child home your parents would have received him?

A. Yes, because I used to bring one home, several of them. In fact, one of hte, after he grew up became chauffeur to Merrial May (?) who used to be head of the old Heral Examiner.

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Wherever we saw him, wherever we were, we waved. We thought nothing of it. We grew up with him. In fact he was the seatmate of Mary Dawes, my cousin. So we had no, well great---we thought nothing of it. As I say, they all came from that one block. And we were all friends. And I wouldn't hesitate today to take my cook, who I told you just called me the other day, to lunch anywhere. She's a lady, she's charming. I wouldn't give it a second thought. As I say, my Mother took our chauffeur to Europe. And nobody thought anything of it at all. Except that they don't think about those things over there.

82. Q. I had heard that at one time, in the olden days, that Jewish people were not allowed into Evanston. That Evanston was a closed community.

A. Now that I couldn't know. Because we just didn't know any and I guess we never heard about it. I don't think they were here. If they weren't allowed, we didn't know about it.

83. Q. It was just ignorance through no contact?

A. That's really true. As I say, they were never discussed. People I knew and my family, they didn't make remarks like that. You know, "He's a Jew," I never heard it. If you say they weren't allowed to come in, that's probably why. They just weren't around.

84. Q. How did young men and women, teenagers and in their twenties, who were moving socially together, live in Evanston? Did they go to the Country Club or?

A. Now what age would you say, 21,22?

85. Q. I don't know. What age did young men and women begin to date in Evanston?

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A. I suppose you might say about seventeen or eighteen years old and the men would be three or four years older, just out of college. And in those days if they were 18, 19, or 20 years old you would go down to the Edgewater Beach Hotel to dance on the boardwalk. You might go to the movies and then have supper at Cooley's Cupboard. A Country Club life catered a little more to young people then, than they do today. They would have dances out at say Glenview and you'd take your dates out there and get a group together to dance. People went to the movies in the evening, they went to Cooley's Cupboard and the Edgewater Beach Hotel. 18 and 19 years old, I don't think they dated all that much. I think it started later, at 19 or 20, 21 so the men you were going with were just starting in business. And as I say the Edgewater Beach Hotel boardwalk was very popular in the summer, you know, dancing right by the Lake.

86. Q. It must have been beautiful.

A. It was beautiful. I think it was that type of^a life. And in the summer you would probably play tennis. It's sort of hard for me to remember, really. You'd go in town, as I told you earlier, for dinner and the theater. You would dance afterwards. It still was a more social way of living. Or you would have people here for dinner maybe. Eighteen and nineteen year olds were not as mature as they are today. We never grew up until our Mother died.

87. Q. You mentioned that you adored your parents?

A. Oh! We adored our parents! We happen to be a very very close family. And most of my friends felt the same way about their parents. They just loved their mothers and fathers. And

my daughter and I, somehow, we have the same relationship and the
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three grandsons are all the same way. We love each other and we're all very good friends. I don't know if everybody is that way or not. We're very compatible, very friendly, we don't interfere with each other, yet we're always here if they want us. And my parents were the same. My parents were always available and here. Again, everybody I knew was happy I guess. And if they weren't you'd never know about it. I don't remember ever in my life hearing them fight. I'm sure they must have, but we never heard it. And when my father said something we did it. We weren't rude children but if we were, we got into trouble. We were always very appreciative of everything. And there again, I say that may have just been us. We were brought up to appreciate things. Maybe it was that generation. I can't think of anybody I know today, that's my husband's age, and he is a year older than I am, there isn't one man of this group that we know of his age, that can hold a candle to his father or my father or any of the people I knew as a child. There was a great dignity about those people and you had a great respect for them. They were fun. They had wonderful senses of humor. All intelligent. But this generation that I'm in, I don't think any of them can hold a candle to our parents and I don't know why. Unless ^{the} times have changed us all. Or prohibition could have done it. I've often thought that prohibition was the downfall of my generation. The First World War didn't help it either.

88. Q. I wonder how much of it is the loss of the servant class. Because now Mothers have to change the diapers and they have to do the wash.

A. They have to do everything. I really do. I wouldn't want
(Cont. 7/xxxiv)

to say that very far to anybody because you have to be very careful in this day and age who you talk to. I'm talking this way to you but there are people, I mean, I just wouldn't say anything because they would just despise me. But I really think that makes the difference. I think its made a difference in a gracious way of life. Because it's pretty hard to clean the silver, set the table, do the cooking, get yourself dressed, get down there, see that your husband can get the drinks and everything else, you still have to watch the dinner, then you have to come in and have the dinner. You know all along that no matter how beautiful the table looks, or how nice everything is going, you've got to clean this all up tonight. That takes the fun out of some of it. And I really think that's part of it. And I can understand how the servant left. And on the other hand, in the homes that I know of who had servants, including my family home, they were beautifully treated. They had beautiful rooms up here on the third floor. There were five bedrooms and two baths. Beautiful rooms and they were beautifully treated. They were part of our life. They must have been treated badly somewhere along the line, because they have broken away from it. It's an honorable profession. Every honest labor is an honorable work. Everybody can't be president of the bank but somewhere along the line that particular job was degraded. Every now and then you'll read in the paper, AN EXECUTIVE CHAUFFEUR WANTED, \$12,000 a year. That's frightful. He probably never even got through grammar school. So he drives the executive into town, then goes to the mailroom or does something else, then drives him home. Now how many people can pay \$12,000 for a chauffeur?

I think somehow along the line the servant was degraded and that's not right. Because I think that if someone is in your home and is doing something nice, whether it is just a beautiful job of silver cleaning. That's a beautiful job. You know. Somebody's an excellent cook. That's a hard job, I think. That's an art, I think. And what's wrong with it really. But that class of job has been degraded and I suppose by the people who employed them. They took advantage of them. I'm sure they did. Because when I first started off in England, and had my home over there, I had a cook, and I had a kitchen maid who cleaned up after the cook. I had a maid and I had a butler. And the butler did the shoes, did your husband's clothes, pressing them and keeping them in order, and the silver. That's all he did. And the parlor maid did the tidying up and the cleaning up, you know, the dusting and what have you. The cook never left the kitchen. And then the little kitchen maid would peel her vegetables and do half her work for her. And yet those kitchens were all down below ground as you know, those old town houses. And yet they had a world of their own. But it must have been degrading somewhere along the line, because even over there today, it is very difficult to get help. So they must have been degraded you see. And they must have been degraded here, because there is certainly nothing wrong with being a cook, is there? Except they are waiting on someone and I guess in this day and age you are not supposed to wait on anyone. I think that must have been it. But I do think the change in the social life I'm speaking of, is the fact that you do live in a servant---I hate to use the word, you have to live in a house with no help.

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You really have to do things most of the time and you're not really free.

89. Q. I wonder if part of the change in attitude toward being a servant or domestic help, whatever you want to call it, came from the fact that perhaps their lives were restricted? They did not have families of their own.

A. I think that, that's the answer. I think that's another answer. Because no matter what you do if you're working, you work say from nine to four, or from nine to five, servants are on duty all the time. Really. Even if they have their days off and get their paid vacations, the thing is, they are on duty all the time. And of course no job, you can't do that. Really, I guess that's what it comes down to. For years I had two people here and then gradually one left, and then gradually the cook finally left and finally the next thing I could get would be as I've had for several years, is the lovely woman who had a fine job and came in at 4:00. And she liked that. She worked five days a week but then she was free, wasn't she? And that's it. That's really it. I never thought of it that way, but that is it, because that's completely restricted living. You're here all the time, sure you have your day off and your Sunday off, but you're living in that household and you answer the phone and you answer the bell.

90. Q. You don't accumulate possessions or family.

A. You can't You can't. And even if you lived out and had a family, you're still here every day and night. You're here all the time. And that's probably it. Today you see, if you read the

ads it's all part time. I can understand that. Can you imagine--- except the person whose been left behind, like myself---we're the restricted ones now. That's fair enough. I don't mind. I happen to love it here. Being the type of person I am I tak it all in my stride. I don't care. It's home. It's not hard for me because I've lived here all my life. So I treat it as fun. The things I've collected all my life, I take good care of them and thoroughly enjoy looking at them every morning. But then they are my things I am taking care of. I can understand what you say. You don't have any possessions when you are a servant. And you know if you do anything wrong, out you go.

91. Q. No permanency.

A. No. That's right. No pension plan. I never realized it but I'm sure it's all true.

92. Q. Do you know what happened to help when they became too old to work?

A. I don't have any idea. I really don't know. I know that when my Mother died in 1948, Lilly left. But she was old and she went to her own home which was across from Evanston Township High School. And she got a job just for an hour or two in the afternoon. Then she got sick and died. She was almost 95 when she died but then she had never really retired. So I really just don't know what they did. I just don't know. I suppose some families if they had them that long, gave them something. I hope they did, to help them along, but I don't know what happened to them.

93. Q. A person could end up, let's say 75 years old, with nothing.

A. Absolutely. Of course, today, you have to pay them social security. The lady who cleans for me works five days a week and

and will collect social security when she retires or her husband dies.

95. Q. Well, I think I've just about run out of questions unless you can think of something in particular you would like to add,

A. No. I think the best person you ever talked to was Mrs. Beach because I just can't remember too much. We were away so much.

95. Q. I think you've been just fantastic.

A. Well, thank you. But you know I think that makes a difference. We were away an awful lot. We were one of a few families that were away so much. Being able to on account of Daddy retiring. So, so much of that life that some people had, well, we'd be gone for six months. We'd be gone to California and go to school out there, in the winter. So its hard to pick up some of the threads of that earlier life. We'd just get settled in and away we'd go.

96. Q. Evenso you've given me a very important picture of what your life was like.

A. That's right. And as I say, it was a very interesting life and very fun. We had a lot of fun. I sometimes feel badly that my children could not have had the same. My daughter will be forty and my son will be twenty-eight. And today for him, he is in a training progarm with the Santa Fe Railroad, because all his life he has been interested in railroads. I'll show you his set downstairs that he began when he was seven years old. And he is now in an engineer training program, running engines. As I tell him, I just hope that I live long enough to ride in his private car when he is President of the Santa Fe. (Laughs). If our son remains an engineer for the Santa Fe for the rest of

his life---that's been the dream of his life---we're all for him. Because you have got to do what you want to do, if you ever expect any success. And that's one thing my generation couldn't do. Because if my son was living in the days I was living with my father and mother here, and he wanted to be an engineer on the Santa Fe, he never would have been allowed to do it. Because that really would have hurt them. You know what I mean, that would have been, what's the word, he would have lost his status symbol. Of course that's the one thing that's good about today. Because what difference does it make? Along as he is doing what he is happiest at and doing it well. You had to do certain things in my generation. You had to leave this house dressed, and well-dressed. You couldn't go out the way they do today, blue-jeanned and bare-footed. You had to go out looking as if you were going, I don't know where, I guess the Blackstone. And those were the things we had to do. You had to be at all times, your very best. Now today, I can be anyway I like.

97. Q. Mrs. Beach mentioned to me that girls went to class at Northwestern in white gloves, stockings, a hat, pumps, and a very fine dress.

A. I wonder why they did that. I don't know what there was about that world. A kind of real, I don't know what the name of it was, it had to be that way. As I say, my son living in my world, wouldn't have been allowed to. That would have been the most terrible thing that could have happened. He would probably have had to go into a bank with Daddy. I mean you had to do certain things. They were expected of you. You couldn't have

any more married a man that you were crazy about if he sold material at Carson Pirie. You just weren't allowed to do that. I know. Because I had a beau like that. That was absolutely taboo. Because somebody might talk about them or something. They were always afraid of what the other person was going to say. Although my father wasn't. He was of this generation. He didn't believe in that at all. He said that nobody had a right to worry about what the other person said. That too many people flattered themselves to think that maybe the other person was even thinking about them. But I think maybe the women thought that, see. And we go back to the same old thing again. It was just a different type of life. Help in the house, and more leisure for those who lived in the house.

98. Q. I wonder if for the women, it might have been partly, that women did not do anything, were not allowed to do anything. Therefore women had to marry into a family that could support them in the manner to which they were accustomed.

A. I just don't know. I just don't know.

99. Q. I wonder if there was as much pressure about a young man marrying "down" so to speak as there was for a girl?

A. Well I imagine that as far as a young boy goes and a young girl, I imagine both their families expected them to marry the type of girls they all grew up with. I think that's it. And of course, they all did. And there's another thing I keep repeating, everybody knew each other. I don't know how we did. Of course, I suppose the Country Club. That must have been the common meeting ground. But we knew all the boys and girls around here.

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Q. I wonder if there was an idea present about a young man marrying "down" as to speak as there was for a girl?

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